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# Children's Residential Care Update

## MARCH 2009

This is our first quarter *Children's Residential Care Update* for 2009. We are in the seventeenth year of our efforts to keep the children's residential care community informed of licensing programs and services. Your support in sharing this *Update* with colleagues in your organization and others interested in children's issues is appreciated.

Our *Updates* are available online at the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) Community Care Licensing Division (CCLD) website. They can be viewed or obtained at <http://cclld.ca.gov/PG457.htm>.

### MEGAN'S LAW WEBSITE INFORMATION ON REGISTERED SEX OFFENDERS

Licensure by the CCLD to provide residential care to children involves sharing the responsibility for their health and safety, including taking preventative measures such as obtaining appropriate background checks for those caring for children in licensed facilities and homes. This also includes periodically making use of the Department of Justice (DOJ) Megan's Law website with regard to Registered Sex Offenders (RSOs). This website is the result of California law enacted by Assembly Bill (AB) 488 (Chapter 745, Statutes of 2004), which required the DOJ to provide the public with access to Internet-based information on people who are required to register in California as sex offenders. A provider letter regarding the Megan's Law website has been mailed and is available on the CCLD website at: <http://ccl.dss.cahwnet.gov/res/pdf/RSOletterallLicensees.pdf>.

CCLD has developed a training aid on how to use the Megan's Law website. This training aid includes a discussion of the proper use of the website, computer set up for access to the website, a website overview, searching the website, and what to do if a RSO "match" is found. This training aid can be found on the left-hand side of the CCLD website, under the heading "Additional Information" and under "How to Use Megan's Law Website", at [www.cclld.ca.gov/PG829.htm](http://www.cclld.ca.gov/PG829.htm).

The Megan's Law website can be accessed at [www.meganslaw.ca.gov](http://www.meganslaw.ca.gov).

## **JO FREDERICK, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF CCLD ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT**

Jo Frederick, Deputy Director of the CCLD, has announced her plans to retire from State service. Jo began her career in 1977 working in a variety of positions within CDSS and the State Legislature. Her contributions through the years have been in a number of key areas: training, emergency response, federal and state legislation, the refugee program, welfare reform, and most recently in CCLD. When she first came to CCLD, she didn't know how long she would stay. After experiencing the "CCLD gets in your blood" feeling, Jo then wondered why she didn't come to CCLD earlier. Jo has brought outstanding leadership to the division and she will be greatly missed. We wish her the very best as she moves onto exciting new life opportunities. Thank you, Jo, and we all hope our paths will cross again in the future!

## **IMPLEMENTATION PLANS FOR 2008 CHAPTERED LEGISLATION NOW ONLINE**

A summary and implementation plan for pertinent bills chaptered in 2008 that affect children's residential facilities and homes are now available on the CCLD website. Unless otherwise noted in the summary and implementation plan, these bills became effective on January 1, 2009. Licensees are encouraged to review these plans to ensure compliance with the provisions of these bills. If you have any questions, you are encouraged to contact your local licensing office. The implementation plans are online at <http://ccl.dss.cahwnet.gov/PG830.htm>.

## **NEW MYCCL WEB PORTAL FOR LICENSING RESOURCES**

CCLD is pleased to announce the new "MyCCL Web Portal", the beginning of a web-based licensing information center. This portal will provide e-mail alerts, Information Releases, immediate notification of any important changes to health and safety laws and regulations and e-mail broadcasts during a regional emergency situation. A flier announcing the "MyCCL Web Portal" has been mailed and is included with this *Update*. To register, please visit MyCCL at: [www.myccl.ca.gov](http://www.myccl.ca.gov).

## **REGULATIONS DOCKET**

**Foster Family Homes:** A public hearing on the proposed Foster Family Homes regulations is expected to be scheduled for Spring 2009.

These regulations will implement several pieces of legislation that include: Assembly Bill (AB) 408 (Chapter 813, Statutes of 2003), which entitled foster children to participate in age-appropriate extracurricular, enrichment, and social activities; AB 1116 (Chapter 637, Statutes of 2005) which authorized designated, trained caregivers who are not licensed health care providers to administer emergency medical assistance and/or injections for specific reasons to a foster child in placement; AB 1514 (Chapter 120, Statutes of 2007), which specified that psychotropic medication may be administered to a child who is a ward of the court with a court order; Senate Bill (SB) 358 (Chapter 628, Statutes of 2005) which established the Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard and exempted short-term babysitters from regulatory requirements for criminal background check, health

screening, and CPR training; and SB 500 (Chapter 630, Statutes of 2005), which defined a "Whole Family Foster Home" and required a "Shared Responsibility Plan" for a minor parent and caregiver with regard to the minor parent's child.

Public hearing information is posted on the Office of Regulations Development (ORD) website under "Regulation Changes in Process/Completed Regulations", in "Public Hearing Information" at <http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/ord/PG321.htm>. Interested individuals wanting to comment on the Foster Family Homes regulations at public hearing may contact ORD at [ord@dss.ca.gov](mailto:ord@dss.ca.gov).

If you have questions about these proposed regulations, please contact the Policy Development Bureau at (916) 324-4312.

### **UPCOMING TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES**

**Foster Family Home (FFH) County Academy:** The upcoming FFH County Academy is scheduled for March 23-27, 2009 and will be held at the Riverside CCL Office. This training is designed to educate county staff on all aspects of licensing regulations and enforcement. County staff consists of new Licensing Program Analysts, licensing supervisors, and one or two program managers. If you have new county staff and they need training, contact Leslie Mendoza, County Academy Coordinator, (323) 981-3856 or e-mail her at [Leslie.Mendoza@dss.ca.gov](mailto:Leslie.Mendoza@dss.ca.gov).

**Group Home (GH) Conference:** This year's GH conference, the 2009 Partnership Training and Placement Fair, will have a slightly different edge to it! The training, co-sponsored by the California Alliance of Child and Family Services, the Northern California Placement Committee, and CCLD will be held April 16-17, 2009 at the Hyatt Regency San Francisco Airport, 1333 Bayshore Highway, Burlingame, California.

This training is designed for professionals working with vulnerable children in placement and their families. It also offers a wide variety of topics relevant to public and private agency administrators, program managers and supervisors, and other advocates. The Placement Fair runs concurrently with the first day of the Partnership Training, to allow providers to showcase their programs and allow placement staff in northern California to learn more about the agencies and programs that serve vulnerable children and families.

Training participants may meet training and continuing education requirements by attending the 2009 Partnership Training and Placement Fair. Early registration for this conference is \$145.00 postmarked on or before March 12<sup>th</sup>. The cost is \$165.00 thereafter. Please contact your local licensing office for more information or go to the following websites:

[http://www.cacfs.org/materials/SaveDateFront%20Post%20Card\\_Partnership.pdf](http://www.cacfs.org/materials/SaveDateFront%20Post%20Card_Partnership.pdf)

[http://www.cacfs.org/materials/Partnership\\_Agenda.pdf](http://www.cacfs.org/materials/Partnership_Agenda.pdf)

[http://www.cacfs.org/materials/partnership\\_registration\\_form.pdf](http://www.cacfs.org/materials/partnership_registration_form.pdf)

## **CHILDREN'S RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM STAFF CHANGES**

Please join us in welcoming the following individuals to the management team of the Children's Residential Program:

- Sergio Ramirez, Acting Statewide Program Administrator
- Mei Yuk Kung, Program Chief, Statewide Program Office
- Michele Wong, Regional Manager, Northern California Regional Office
- Merribeth Carlson, Licensing Program Manager, Chico Local Unit
- Happy Stuart, Licensing Program Manager, Rohnert Park and San Bruno Local Units
- Mario Castro, Licensing Program Manager, Los Angeles Tri-Coastal Regional Office

## **RECALL OF PRODUCTS CONTAINING PEANUT BUTTER**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has issued a nationwide recall on various peanut butter products due to illnesses caused by a type of Salmonella called Salmonella Typhimurium.

Some recalls involve foods sold directly to consumers, such as peanut butter crackers, peanut butter cookies, and ice cream made with peanut butter. A list of recalled products can be found at: <http://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/peanutbutterrecall/index.cfm>. Additionally, some pet food items have been recalled due to the contamination of Salmonella Typhimurum. For a list of these products, please visit the following link at: <http://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/peanutbutterrecall/index.cfm#PetFood>.

The Salmonella group of bacteria is a common cause of diarrheal illness among persons in the United States. These bacteria are often found in the digestive tract of a variety of animals as well as humans. Persons with salmonella infections often experience fever, stomach cramps, nausea and vomiting in addition to diarrhea. Symptoms may persist for two weeks or more, but are usually gone within a week.

Providers may reduce the likelihood of salmonella and other infections by following guidelines for food safety, which can be found at: <http://www.foodsafety.gov/>. Providers are advised to notify the state or local health department if a child or staff person in a children's residential facility or home is infected with salmonella and must follow up with a report to Licensing as required pursuant to Title 22, California Code of Regulations, Section 80061 (Community Treatment Facilities, Group Homes, Small Family Homes, and Transitional Housing Placement Programs), Section 86561 (Crisis Nurseries), Section 88061 (Foster Family Agencies), and Section 89361 (Foster Family Homes).

For any additional information regarding the recall and Salmonella Typhimurum, please visit the Food and Drug Administration website at: <http://www.fda.gov/>.

## **EARTHQUAKE PREPAREDNESS MONTH COMING IN APRIL**

April is just around the corner and is the time for Californians to practice the Duck, Cover and Hold drill in preparation for any possible earthquake. Earthquake preparation for children should include:

- Placing cribs away from windows and tall, unsecured bookcases and shelves that could slide or topple.
- Storing a minimum of a 72-hour supply of extra water, formula, bottles, food, juices, clothing, disposable diapers, baby wipes, and prescribed medications where they are most likely to be accessible after an earthquake.
- Showing children the safest places to be in each room if there is an earthquake. The safest places are away from heavy furniture, appliances, large glass panes, shelves holding objects, and large decorative masonry, brick, or plaster, such as fireplaces.
- Using sturdy tables or desks to teach children to Duck, Cover, and Hold until the danger of an earthquake passes.
- Keeping hallways clear of children's toys and other obstacles.

The California Office of Emergency Services (OES) provides additional tip sheets for earthquake preparedness to the public. These tips can be found under the heading "OES Earthquake Preparedness Tip Sheets" on the OES website at:

<http://www.oes.ca.gov/WebPage/oeswebsite.nsf/Content/A1F2F25F0947AF848825741F006015EF?OpenDocument>.

## **2009 CHANGES IN DISTRIBUTION OF *CHILDREN'S RESIDENTIAL CARE UPDATE***

With increasing costs and decreasing resources, the next quarterly *Update* (June 2009), will be distributed electronically only. No hard copies will be mailed. If you currently receive the *Update* in hard copy form and want to continue to receive the *Update* electronically, please contact Sunny Lam of our staff at [Sunny.Lam@dss.ca.gov](mailto:Sunny.Lam@dss.ca.gov) or by phone at (916) 322-5502 to be added to our e-distribution list. Current and prior Updates are available on the CCLD website at: <http://ccl.dss.cahwnet.gov/PG457.htm>.

## **FURLOUGH FRIDAYS**

In accordance with the Governor's Executive Order to address State budget constraints, all CCLD offices are closed the first and third Friday of each month. This is also known as Furlough Fridays, which started February 6<sup>th</sup>. Furlough Fridays may continue for approximately 18 months and are subject to continuing negotiations.

## **RESIDENTIAL CARE STATISTICS**

All of the statistics for state and county licensed Children's Residential Care facilities are available online. When you visit the new CCLD home page at <http://www.ccl.d.ca.gov>, please click on the "Facility Facts" tab at the top of the page. Click on the "Licensing Statistics" link on the center of the page that appears. Then, click on the desired "State

Licensed Facilities by Geographical Area” or “County Licensed Facilities” link on the center of the page. Directories can also be obtained from your local licensing office.

## **SUMMARY**

If you have questions about this *Update* or suggestions for future topics, please contact Gary Palmer, Chief of the Technical Assistance and Policy Branch at (916) 324-4312. Please visit our website at [www.cclid.ca.gov](http://www.cclid.ca.gov) to obtain *Updates*, office locations, provider letters, regulations, or to learn more about licensing services.

Sincerely,

*Original signed by Jo Frederick*

JO FREDERICK  
Deputy Director  
Community Care Licensing Division

Enclosures